



# County of Bernalillo

## Office of Environmental Health

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### **Proposed Water Well Ordinance Summary**

The Bernalillo County Water Well Ordinance is to replace the existing Individual Water Supply Systems Ordinance. The new Ordinance covers individual wells, multiple household wells, public wells, monitoring wells, and well abandonment. Most individual or multiple household wells that have been approved by the County or a well that was permitted through the Office of the State Engineer before the effective date of the current Ordinance do not have to meet the new requirements until the well is modified. The exceptions would be wells that do not meet the setback requirements, which could pose a health risk to users of that well. These particular wells would need a conditional permit and probably require some form of water sampling.

New Individual Wells are required to meet the specified setback requirements and supply a site plan, permit from the State Engineer, and a completed application when applying for a permit. This remains the same from the existing Ordinance. At final inspection, a water quality sample, documentation of disinfection, documentation of well grouting, and a copy of the drill log are required in addition to the physical inspection as performed under the current ordinance.

New Multiple Household Wells will need to submit the same information as an individual well plus a copy of a well share agreement for that well. An inspection of a multiple household well will be the same as an individual well. Multiple household wells will need to also submit a microbiological sample annually to the County.

Public Wells only need to submit a copy of the NMED permit. The goal of this is to register these wells so that the County is aware of their location. This will ensure that the County does not approve any use that may impact these wells.

Monitoring Wells are included in the ordinance to inform the County as to the location of these wells and to give an idea of which contaminants are appearing the ground water. The intention of requiring a permit is not to inhibit the development of monitoring wells, but to provide a registration of these types of wells with the County.

Under the current ordinance there is no guidance for well abandonment. An unused well can be a source of contamination. A well should be abandoned if it is unable to support the intended use, either in water quantity or water quality. Wells should also be abandoned if they are a threat to public health.

Applicants for Building permits will need to identify their water source. If the source is to be a well (individual or multiple household), then that well will need to be approved by the County before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued.